AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A belt-type fixing device comprising:

an endless-sheet-like fixing belt,

a pressurizing roller which has elasticity and on which a paper is passed through a fixing nip that is contact part between the pressurizing roller and an outer circumferential surface of the fixing belt,-and

a one-piece nip forming member which is provided in contact with an inner surface of the fixing belt, which relatively presses the fixing belt against the pressurizing roller, of which an opposite surface pressing the pressurizing roller is formed as a curved surface extending along an outer circumferential surface of the pressurizing roller, and of which the opposite surface is composed of an elastic layer, wherein the fixing nip is formed only by the nip forming member.

2. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic layer of the nip forming member has a thickness of 0.3 to 2.0 mm.

3. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a low-friction layer having a thickness of 5 to 300 μm is provided on the elastic layer of the nip forming member.

4. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a quantity of deformation of the pressurizing roller is larger than a quantity of deformation of the elastic layer of the nip forming member.

5. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing belt is driven to rotate by the pressurizing roller that is driven to rotate.

6. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a heating roller, wherein the fixing belt is wound around the nip forming member and around the heating roller.

7. (Currently Amended) A belt-type fixing device comprising:

an endless-sheet-like fixing belt including an elastic layer,

a pressurizing roller which has elasticity and on which a paper is passed through a fixing nip that is contact part between the pressurizing roller and an outer circumferential surface of the fixing belt,

a one-piece nip forming member which is provided in contact with an inner surface of the fixing belt, which relatively presses the fixing belt against the pressurizing roller, and of which an opposite surface pressing the pressurizing roller is formed as a curved surface extending along an outer circumferential surface of the pressurizing roller, wherein the fixing nip is formed only by the nip forming member.

8. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the elastic layer of the fixing belt has a thickness of 0.3 to 1.0 mm.

9. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein a mold release layer is provided on the elastic layer in the fixing belt.

10. (Original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fixing belt is driven to rotate by the pressurizing roller that is driven to rotate.

11. (original) A belt-type fixing device as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a heating roller, wherein the fixing belt is wound around the nip forming member and around the heating roller.

12 (Currently Amended). A belt-type fixing device comprising:

an endless-sheet-like fixing belt,

a pressurizing roller which has elasticity and on which a paper is passed through a fixing nip that is contact part between the pressurizing roller and an outer circumferential surface of the fixing belt,

a one-piece nip forming member which is provided in contact with an inner surface of the fixing belt, which relatively presses the fixing belt against the pressurizing roller, and of

which an opposite surface pressing the pressurizing roller is formed as a curved surface extending along an outer circumferential surface of the pressurizing roller, and

an elastic member which is provided in contact part of the nip forming member abutting on the fixing belt and of which a surface opposite to the pressurizing roller has a radius of curvature substantially equal to a radius of curvature of the outer circumferential surface of the pressurizing roller, wherein the fixing nip is formed only by the nip forming member.